DIN AHMED): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

Creation of Free Trade Zones

531. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what are the latest proposals with respect to creating Free Trade Zones in the Country;

(b) the cities, towns or areas which have demanded the creation of such Free Trade Zones; and

(c) what is the criterion for creating Free Trade Zones in the Country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) to (c) There are six Export Processing Zones/Free Trade Zones functioning in the country. These are at Kandla (Gujarat), Bombay (Maharashtra), Cochin (Kerala), Madras (Tamil Nadu), Noida (UP), and Falta (West Bengal). A seventh Export Processing Zone is being established at Visakhapatnam (Andhra Pradesh).

State Governments of Karnataka, MP, Bihar, Sikkim, Punjab, Orissa, Goa, Haryana, Himachal Pradesh and Rajasthan have, from time to time, requested for the setting up of an Export Processing Zone. The Central Government stand has been that keeping in view the availability of funds and the need to optimise infrastructural facilities in the existing Zones, it would not be possible for the Government to consider developing new Zones in the country.

The criteria kept in mind while locating an EPZ include proximity to sea/airport, availability of basic infrastructural facilities like roads, power and water supply, banking, communication facilities and access to social infrastructure such as housing, health, educational, entertainment facilities etc.

Target for Expansion of Agricultural and Allied Products

532. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the estimated target for exports of agricultural and allied commodities during 1992-93 and what is the actual achievement stating the earnings in terms of foreign exchange and the shortfall, if any, in the anticipated target; and

(b) what is the anticipated export target for agricultural and allied commodities during 1993-94 stating the manner in which the target is proposed to be achieved and the anticipated percentage of growth in terms of foreign exchange?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI KAMALUDDIN AHMED): (a) The target was US $ 2000 million while the achievement was US $ 1946 million.

(b) The target fixed for 1993-94 is US $ 2255 million, a growth rate of above 15% on the provisional export figures for 1992-93. Government is giving special attention to the growth of exports in the agricultural sector. Towards this end in view, EXIM Policy 1992-97 has been further liberalised and the import duties on certain inputs and materials required by the agricultural sector have been lowered and made freely importable. Various incentives have also been included for the agricultural sector in the 1993-94 budget. These changes are expected to give an impetus to agricultural exports.

533. *[Transferred to 10th August, 1993]*.

Compilation of Commonly Used Items by DGS&D

534. SHRI GOPALSINH G. SOLANKI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether DGS&D has compiled a list of common users items pursuant to its rationalisation and/or decentralisation, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether DGS&D holds RC for each such item;

(c) if not, what are the items for which RC could not be concluded, the pendency of delays in each such case and reasons therefor; and

(d) what steps Government envisage to revamp the organisation?